



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

November 20, 2015

Helen Ordway
Environmental Manager
Alon Bakersfield Refinery
6451 Rosedale Highway
P.O. Box 1551
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Re: **Alon Bakersfield Refinery (Alon)
Aquifer Exemption Application**

Dear Ms. Ordway:

We are in receipt of Alon's Aquifer Exemption Application dated September 28, 2015 and received by EPA on October 9, 2015. EPA is conducting a review of the aquifer exemption request to evaluate whether it contains sufficient information to determine whether the request meets federal exemption criteria at 40 CFR 146.4. In addition, as you know, we are coordinating with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 5, as well as other state agencies, with regard to this application for an aquifer exemption.

Based on EPA's review thus far, I am writing to advise Alon that several necessary pieces of information are either missing from the application, or are not provided in sufficient detail. For example, sufficient, detailed information to support a demonstration that the aquifer or portion thereof proposed for exemption does not currently serve as a source of drinking water, per 40 CFR 146.4(a), is not provided in the application. Therefore, please be advised that EPA considers your application to be incomplete at this time. We will provide comprehensive comments in the next few weeks.

Please contact me at (415) 972-3971, or Michele Dermer of my staff at (415) 972-3417, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Albright".

David Albright
Manager
Drinking Water Protection Section

cc: Bill Bartling, CA DOGGR, District 4
Rob Habel, CA DOGGR HQ
Clay Rogers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
John Borkovich, CA State Water Board